

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 261728Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7089

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 AMMAN 1067

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, JO, SA,US

SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN KING HUSSEIN AND
PRINCE FAISAL

REF: AMMAN 1063

1. SUMMARY: AS MENTIONED PARA 1 REFTEL, THE EMBASSY
TRANSMITS INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF (A) A
LETTER OF FEB 22 FROM SAUDI CROWN PRINCE TO KING HUSSEIN
AND (B) KING HUSSEIN'S REPLY OF FEB 25. THE FAHD LETTER
STIPULATES THAT ITS FINANCIAL AID TO JORDAN FOR THE HAWK
MISSILE IS LIMITED TO 300 MILLION DOLLARS. KING HUSSEIN'S
REPLY INDICATED THAT THE 300 MILLION DOLLARS IS INADEQUATE
FOR PURCHASE OF THE U.S. AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM; THEREFORE, JORDAN
INTENDS TO USE THE 300 MILLION SAUDI GRANT, WHICH IT REQUESTS
THE SAG REMIT TO JORDAN IMMEDIATELY, TO PAY THE USG
12 MILLION DOLLARS IN CONTRACT CANCELLATION COSTS
AND TO PURCHASE AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM FROM ANOTHER
SOURCE, GUARANTEEING THAT WHATEVER THE SOURCE THEY
WILL BE, ONCE IN JORDANIAN HANDS, "ARAB ARMS."
END SUMMARY.

2. CROWN PRINCE FAHD LETTER : BEGIN TEXT

A. IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE COMPASSIONATE AND
MERCIFUL, HIS EXALTED MAJESTY, BROTHER KING
HUSSEIN IBN TALAL, BY THE GRACE OF GOD KING OF THE
HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN. COMPLIMENTS AND
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BROTHERLY GREETINGS TO YOUR MAJESTY, JOINED (TO US) BY THE

NEAREST AND FONDEST HOPES, WISHING CONTINUING GOOD HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND WELLBEING TO YOUR MAJESTY AND TO ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR MAJESTY'S HONORABLE FAMILY, AND ALL HONOR TO THEM.

B. I WAS HONORED BY THE RECEIPT OF YOUR MAJESTY'S MESSAGE OF 18 SAFIR 1396, CORRESPONDING TO 18 FEBRUARY 1976, WHICH HIS EXCELLENCY THE CHIEF OF THE ROYAL HASHEMITE DIWAN BROUGHT TO ME IN WHICH YOUR MAJESTY HAS HAD THE KINDNESS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE SPECIAL SUBJECT OF THE AIR DEFENSE TRANSACTIONS WHICH WERE CONTRACTED WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. THE U.S. LETTER ACCOMPANYING YOUR MAJESTY'S MESSAGE PROVIDED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

C. I THANK YOUR MAJESTY, AND I APPRECIATE THE BROTHERLY AND FRIENDLY SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED BY YOUR MAJESTY. I ASSURE YOUR MAJESTY THAT WHICH I HAVE PREVIOUSLY ASSURED YOU, NAMELY, THAT I AND ALL THE BROTHERS SHARE WITH YOU IDENTICAL SENTIMENTS, AND WE RETURN THE SAME FEELINGS. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO DOUBT THAT THE STRENGTH OF SISTERLY JORDAN IN PARTICULAR, AND THE PROGRESS OF THE SISTERLY ARAB COUNTRIES WHICH STAND IN A LINE FACING THE COMMON ENEMY, RESISTING IT, IS THE STRENGTH OF ALL THE ARAB NATION. THIS STRENGTH IS THE DESIRED GOAL WHOSE REALIZATION IS OUR COMMON WISH.

D. THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA HAS NOT WAVERED AT ANY TIME FROM DOING ALL IT CAN TOWARD THIS END, AND IT WILL NOT SHIRK ANY UNDERTAKING IN WHICH IT SEES ITS DUTY DICTATED, (A DUTY) EMBRACING THE COMMON DESIRE FOR EVERYTHING WHICH MIGHT BRING PROSPERITY TO OUR ARAB NATION AND SECURITY, STABILITY, AND THE GREATEST POSSIBLE WELL BEING TO ALL ITS (ARAB NATIONS'S) PEOPLE, (A DUTY) WHICH PERMITS IT TO REGAIN ITS USURPED RIGHTS, AND THE RETURN OF PLUNDERED LANDS. HIS MAJESTY KING KHALID STILL PLACES AT THE DISPOSAL OF YOUR MAJESTY THE SUM AGREED UPON, AMOUNTING TO 300 MILLION DOLLARS.

E. IF SISTERLY JORDAN FINDS THAT THERE ARE OBSTACLES IN THE PATH OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ALREADY CONCLUDED AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. AND IT IS YOUR SECRET

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MAJESTY'S OPINION THAT IT IS IN YOUR INTEREST TO INVESTIGATE ANOTHER SOURCE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE DESIRED WEAPONS, THAT IS WITHOUT DOUBT YOUR RIGHT, AND IS A MATTER FOR YOUR MAJESTY'S OWN JUDGEMENT. IN ANY CASE, THIS WAS THE SUBJECT OF A DETAILED DISCUSSION WITH THE CHIEF OF YOUR MAJESTY'S DIWAN, AND THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT HIS EXCELLENCY WILL CONVEY TO YOUR MAJESTY THE DETAILS OF WHAT WAS DEALT WITH IN THE

DISCUSSION OF THIS AND OTHER SUBJECT PERTAINING TO THE
FUTURE OF OUR ARAB NATION IN GENERAL, AND OUR TWO
SISTERLY COUNTRIES IN PARTICULAR.

F. AS FOR THE STRUGGLE UNDERWAY
BETWEEN MOROCCO, MAURITANIA AND ALGERIA, THIS UNFORTUNATE
EVENT WHICH HAS CUT INTO THE SOUL OF EVERY ARAB
DEVOTED TO THE HOMELAND, WE PRAY THAT GOD WILL
INSPIRE THE THREE BROTHERS: THAT THEY WILL BE DRAWN
TO THE SIDE OF WISDOM, AND THAT THEY WILL WORK AT NARROWING
THE FISSURE (CREATED BY) THIS DISPUTE, WHICH CAN ONLY
BENEFIT THE ENEMIES OF THE ARAB NATION, WHO
LIE IN WAIT FOR THIS. WE FURTHERMORE HOPE THAT GOD
WILL CROWN ATTEMPTS WITH SUCCESS, RAPID AGREEMENT,
AND WELL-MEANING MEASURES, AND THAT THE FAITHFUL
WILL SPARE NO EFFORT IN MEDIATING BETWEEN THEM. WE
BELIEVE THAT CLEAR SKIES AND HARMONY WILL RETURN TO
THE AREA IN THE NEAR FUTURE, GOD, WHO IS ALMIGHTY
IN ALL THINGS, WILLING.

G. FINALLY, I ASK ALMIGHTY GOD TO PROTECT OUR NATION
FROM ALL HATRED AND THAT HE GRANT US GLORY, VICTORY,
UNITY OF WORD, AND THE RAISING OF THE CAUSE OF ISLAM
AND OF MUSLIMS.

H. I REPEAT MY GREETINGS AND MY MOST HEARTFELT
BEST WISHES TO YOUR MAJESTY FOR CONTINUED HEALTH,
HAPPINESS, AND WELLBEING. MAY GOD KEEP YOU AND
CARE FOR YOU (SIGNED) FAHD IBN 'ABDUL 'AZIZ IS-SA'UD,
RIYADH 22 SAFIR 1396 (CORRESPONDING TO 22 FEB 1976).
END TEXT

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7090

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 AMMAN 1067

NODIS

3. KING HUSSEIN LETTER: BEGIN TEXT: HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE FAHD BIN
ABDUL AZIZ; CROWN PRINCE OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARAB
KINGDOM; RIYADH

A. I SEND WARMEST AND FONDEST COMPLIMENTS TO MY
BROTHER AND MY GREAT RESPECT AND GREETINGS TO MY ELDER
BROTHER HIS MAJESTY KING KHALID, PRAYING TO GOD TO
PRESERVE HIS MAJESTY'S GOOD HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND
PROSPERITY, AS WELL AS FOR ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE
HONORED (ROYAL) FAMILY.

B. I RECEIVED YOUR HIGHNESS' LETTER DATED 22 SAFIR
(HIJRA YEAR) 1396 (CORRESPONDING TO 22 FEBRUARY, 1976)
IN REPLY TO MY LETTER TO YOUR HIGHNESS DATED 18 SAFIR,
1396 (CORRESPONDING TO 18 FEB, 1976) TO WHICH WAS
ATTACHED A COPY OF THE RECENT AMERICAN LETTER CONCERNING
THE HAWK DEFENSIVE ARMS ON WHICH AN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN
CONCLUDED WITH THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT BASED UPON A
PRIOR SAUDI UNDERTAKING TO UNDERWRITE ITS FINANCIAL COST,
IT BEING AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM CONSISTING OF 14 IMPROVED
HAWK MISSILE BATTERIES AND 100 VULCAN TOWED ARTILLERY
GUNS.

C YOUR HIGHNESS CANNOT BUT REMEMBER THE STRUGGLE THAT
OCCURRED BETWEEN US AND SYMPATHETIC FORCES WITH THE
ZIONIST ENEMY IN THE AMERICAN CONGRESS IN ITS ATTEMPT
TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE TRANSACTION THAT HAD BEEN REACHED
AFTER A JOINT U.S. JORDANIAN STUDY HAD CONCLUDED THAT IT
CONSTITUTED THE MINIMUM REQUIRED TO GUARANTEE THE AIR
DEFENSE OF YOUR COUNTRY (SIC) JORDAN.

BUT WE OVERCAME THE HOSTILE RESISTANCE TO THE
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TRANSACTION IN WASHINGTON BY STANDING UP FIRMLY AGAINST
IT OURSELVES AND ALSO THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR
POSITION WITH THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION IN THAT REGARD.
I PERMIT ME TO SAY HERE THAT IT APPEARS TO ME--
ACCORDING TO MY MEMORY--THAT I HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY AGREED
THAT THE SUM WAS LIMITED TO ONLY 300 MILLION DOLLARS
FOR THE ABOVE- MENTIONED HAWK SYSTEM. THE COST OF AN
AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM CONSISTING OF 14 HAWK MISSILE
BATTERIES AND 100 VULCAN TOWED ARTILLERY GUNS IS WELL
KNOWN TO THE SAUDI DEFENSE MINISTER. WE WERE
CONCENTRATING IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE AMERICAN
SIDE-- FROM THE BEGINNING--ON THE WEAPONS AND ARTILLERY
THEMSELVES LEAVING, (FOR LATER) THE DISCUSSION OF THE
FINANCIAL SIDE WITH OUR BROTHERS IN THE SAUDI KINGDOM.
THE U.S. SIDE DID NOT INFORM US OFFICIALLY ABOUT
THE COST OF THE WEAPONS UNTIL RECENTLY IN THE AMOUNT
THAT WE THEN FORWARDED TO YOUR HIGHNESS.
IT SHOULD BE CLEAR THAT THE SUM OF THE ABOVE-
MENTIONED 300 MILLION DOLLARS WAS AN ESTIMATE IN THE
FIRST PHASE OF THE STUDY AND WAS AT NO POINT THE AGREED-

UPON COST, ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION.

E. IN ANY CASE, WE RECEIVED THE RECENT AMERICAN LETTER, OF WHICH WE SENT YOUR HIGHNESS A COPY, CONTAINING THE AMERICAN WARNING (ULTIMATUM) CONCERNING CANCELLATION OF THE TRANSACTION IN THE EVENT THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT TO PAY ITS COST AND THE PAYMENT OF THE FIRST INSTALLMENT DUE BEFORE THE END OF FEBRUARY. IN VIEW OF WHAT YOUR HIGHNESS HAS COMMUNICATED TO US, NAMELY THAT THE SUM THAT HIS MAJESTY KING KHALID HAS AGREED TO PLACE AT OUR DISPOSAL AMOUNTS TO 300 MILLION DOLLARS-- AND THIS IS MUCH LESS THAN THE AMOUNT REQUESTED BY THE AMERICAN SIDE TO COVER THE TOTAL COSTS OF THE TRANSACTION-- DISCUSSIONS OF THE SUBJECT OF THE AMERICAN TRANSACTION IS THEREFORE AT THIS POINT CONSIDERED TO BE TERMINATED. OF COURSE, THE CANCELLATION OF THE TRANSACTION WILL REQUIRE US TO PAY 12 MILLION DOLLARS, TO BE PAID TO THE U.S., AS WAS POINTED OUT IN THE U.S. LETTER, A COPY OF WHICH WE SENT TO YOUR HIGHNESS.

F. I MUST EXPRESS MY GREAT THANKS TO MY BROTHER HIS MAJESTY FOR PLACING THE 300 MILLION DOLLARS AT MY DISPOSAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF BUILDING OUR NATIONAL POWER
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IN DEFENSE OF THE STRICKED HOLY PLACES AND TO REGAIN THE USURPED RIGHTS AND PLUNDERED LANDS. (COMMENT: ABOVE PHRASES ARE QUOTED FROM FAHD LETTER). PERMIT ME TO EXPRESS TO YOUR HIGHNESS MY APPRECIATION FOR WHAT YOU DID REGARDING THE OBSTACLES WE FACED IN CARRYING OUT THE AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. SIDE. WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO INVESTIGATE ANOTHER SOURCE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE DESIRED WEAPONS.

G. INASMUCH AS THE AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. REGARDING THE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM HAS TERMINATED FROM A PRACTICAL STANDPOINT AND BECOMES INVALID AS OF THE END OF FEBRUARY, AND INASMUCH AS WE CANNOT LEAVE OUR AIR SPACE AND OUR COUNTRY DEFENSELESS, SINCE THIS WOULD HAVE A DELETERIOUS EFFECT ON THE MORALE OF OUR SOLDIERS, ARMED FORCES AND CITIZENS AFTER HAVING WAITED A LONG TIME TO INSURE THE ACQUISITION OF AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM FOR THE KINGDOM, WE WILL ENDEAVOR WITH GOD'S HELP AND YOUR SUPPORT TO ACQUIRE THE DESIRED WEAPONS FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE THAT CAN GUARANTEE OUR NEEDS WITHIN THE SUM OF MONEY THAT YOU HAVE PROVIDED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

H. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO OUR GREAT BROTHER HIS MAJESTY AND TO YOU ALL FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT AND TRUE AND CONTINUING HELP FOR YOUR COUNTRY JORDAN. WE WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST THAT YOU INSURE THAT THERE IS ISSUED AN ORDER BY HIS MAJESTY TO TRANSFER THE SUM OF 300 MILLION DOLLARS TO THE ACCOUNT OF THE JORDANIAN ARMED FORCES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO ENABLE US TO PAY THE

12 MILLION DOLLARS DUE FROM US TO THE UNITED STATES AND
BEGIN TO PURCHASE IMMEDIATELY THE DESIRED AIR DEFENSE
SYSTEM SO THAT WE CAN FACE ALL THREATS TO US. WE HAVE
ALWAYS SAID THAT ARMS--WHATEVER THEIR SOURCE-- BECOME
ARAB ARMS WHEN THEY ARE IN ARAB HANDS. NOW WE ARE ABLE
TO AFFIRM THAT IN PRACTICE.

I. I REAFFIRM MY THANKD AND APPRECIATION TO MY BROTHER
HIS MAJESTY, MAY GOD PRESERVE HIM.I SEND TO MY
BROTHER YOUR HIGHNESS MY GREATEST APPRECIATION, WARMEST
AFFECTION AND DEEPEST GRATITUDE. (SIGNED) HUSSEIN I.
AMMAN 25 SAFIR 1396 HIJRA (OR 25 FEBRUARY, 1976) END TEXT

4. EMBASSY POUCHING ORIGINAL ARABIC TEXTS TO
DEPARTMENT (NEA/ARN).

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5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT PASS THIS MESSAGE TO JIDDA.
PICKERING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, ARMS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976AMMAN01067
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850107-2400
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760212/aaaaajqx.tel
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
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Reference: 76 AMMAN 1063
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Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
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04 MAY 2006

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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN KING HUSSEIN AND PRINCE FAISAL
TAGS: MASS, JO, SA, US, (HUSSEIN I), (FAISAL, PRINCE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006